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AUG 28 2006

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Docket Number: A01449 :
KRJ :
In re application of: :
Lifeng Zhang :
Serial No.: 10/677,436 : Group Art Unit: 1623
Filed: October 2, 2003 : Examiner: Not Assigned
For: Method for Improving Viscosity of Thickeners for Aqueous Systems

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Prior to examination on the merits, please amend the above-identified application as follows.

Amendments to the Claims begin on page 2 of this Preliminary Amendment.

Remarks begin on page 7 of this Preliminary Amendment.